

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 792
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0276

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP
SUBJ: DEPARTURE OF USSR AMBASSADOR

1. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT VLADIMIR YAKOVLEVICH EROFEEV, USSR AMBASSADOR TO IRAN, WILL BE LEAVING TEHRAN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 4. AMBASSADOR EROFEEV, 67, HAS SERVED IN IRAN SINCE FEBRUARY 1968 AND HAS BEEN DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS SINCE DECEMBER 1972. HIS REPLACEMENT WILL BE AMBASSADOR VLADIMIR MIKHAYLOVICH VINOGRADOV, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN (1960'S), EGYPT (1970-74), MEPC IN GENEVA, AND NOW AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE STATIONED IN MOSCOW. AGREEMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM GOI. STATIONED IN MOSCOW. AGREEMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM GOI.

2. OVER THE YEARS EROFEEV HAS BEEN KNOWN TO A NUMBER OF EMBOFFS. HE IS AFFABLE, SOCIABLE TO AMERICANS, AND DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO AVOID CONTACTS WITH SENIOR EMBOFFS. ON OCCASION HE HAS BEEN WILLING TO TALK ABOUT INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, UNFULFILLED ASPIRATIONS OF YOUTH, AND NARCOTICS ABUSE. HE HAS SPOKEN FAVORABLY OF US-USSR COOPERATION IN SPACE AND OTHER AREAS AND SEEMS TO HOLD A FIRM VIEW THAT THE FATE OF THE WORLD IS IN US-USSR HANDS. GIVEN IRANIAN SUSPICIONS OF SOVIET LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES TOWARD IRAN AND THE AREA AND
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SOME DISAGREEABLE TASKS HE HAS BEEN GIVEN BY HIS GOVERNMENT, EROFEEV HAS DONE A REASONABLY GOOD JOB HERE. HE KNOWS IRAN WELL AND CAN PROBABLY READ IT AS WELL AS MANY OF HIS OTHER DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES. HIS ENGLISH HAS BECOME QUITE ADEQUATE DURING HIS STAY HERE. HE SEEMS TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLE IN MIND AND ANALYSIS THAN SOME OF HIS HARD-LINE SOVIET

COLLEAGUES.

3. MRS. EROFEEV HAS BEEN ACTIVE WHILE IN TEHRAN IN THE RUSSIAN WOMEN'S CLUB AND THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB. TRAINED IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH AT THE INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN MOSCOW, SHE HAS TRANSLATED A NUMBER OF FRENCH AND ENGLISH PLAYS AND NOVELS FOR PUBLICATION IN THE USSR.

4. UPON EROFEEV'S DEPARTURE, THE NEW DEAN OF THE CORPS WILL BE SHAIKH NASSER MOHAMED A. AL-SABAH, KUWAITI AMBASSADOR TO IRAN SINCE NOVEMBER 29, 1968.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH AMBASSADOR VINOGRADOV'S SERVICE OVER PAST FEW YEARS AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF MEPC IN GENEVA. FULLER BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
MIKLOS

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